

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the first 7 paragraphs of the specification, under the heading "CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS," starting on page i, as follows:

The present application is a continuation of Application No. 10/101,436, filed 3/19/02, which is a continuation of Application No. 08/959,432, filed 10/28/1997 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,359,872, issued 03/19/2002), which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/500,977, filed April 4, 1996 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,682,379, issued 10/28/1997), which is the U.S. national stage entry of PCT Application No. PCT/US93/12628, filed December 23, 1993 (published as WO94/15413 on 07/07/1994). The Application No. PCT/US93/12628 claims priority to, and is a continuation-in-part of, Application No. 08/027,140, filed 03/05/1993 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,602,854, issued 02/11/1997), which is a continuation-in-part of Application No. 07/997,693, filed December 23, 1992 (now abandoned); ~~which is a continuation-in-part of Application No. 07/982,292, filed 11/27/1992 (now abandoned).~~ U.S. Application No. 08/027,140 is also a continuation-in-part of Application No. 07/529,353, filed May 25, 1990, now abandoned; Application No. 07/558,895, filed July 25, 1990, now abandoned; Application No. 07/854,115, filed March 18, 1992, now abandoned; Application No. 07/876,776, filed April 28, 1992, now abandoned; and Application No. 07/876,629, filed April 30, 1992, now abandoned.

~~— The present application is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 09/467,255, filed December 20, 1999, which is a divisional of U.S. Application No. 08/239,267, filed May 6, 1994 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,006,100), which is a continuation of U. S. Application No. 07/876,776, April 28, 1992 ABN, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 07/558,895, filed July 25, 1990, by Koenck et al., now abandoned. The U.S. Application No. 07/558,895 is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 07/529,353, filed May 25, 1990, now abandoned.~~

~~— U.S. Application No. 08/239,267, is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 07/854,115, filed March 18, 1992, now abandoned by Koenck et al., which is a continuation-in-part of above-mentioned U.S. Application No. 07/558,895, filed July 25, 1990.~~

~~—— The present application is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 08/499,328, filed July 7, 1995 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,654,378). U.S. Application No. 08/499,328, is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 08/487,609, filed June 7, 1995 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,790,536), of the aforementioned U.S. Application No. 08/239,267, filed May 6, 1994 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,006,100), and of the aforementioned PCT Application No. PCT/US93/12628, filed December 23, 1993.~~

~~—— The U.S. Application No. 08/487,609, filed June 7, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 5,790,536, is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Nos. a) 08/279,148, filed July 22, 1994, now U.S. Patent No. 5,657,317, issued August 12, 1997; b) 07/876,629, filed April 30, 1992, now abandoned.~~

~~—— The U.S. Application No. 08/279,148, now U.S. Patent No. 5,657,317, is a continuation-in-part of: PCT Application No. PCT/US94/05037, filed May 6, 1994; U.S. Application No. 08/205,639, filed March 4, 1994, now U.S. Patent No. 5,555,276, and U.S. Application No. 08/275,821, filed June 10, 1994, now abandoned.~~

~~—— PCT Application No. PCT/US94/05037 is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 08/198,404, filed February 22, 1994, now abandoned, which is itself a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/198,452, filed February 18, 1994, now abandoned, which is in turn a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 08/168,478, now abandoned, filed December 16, 1993, and PCT Application No. PCT/US93/12628, filed December 23, 1993. The U.S. Application No. 08/168,478, now abandoned, is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 08/147,377, filed November 3, 1993, now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 08/101,254, filed August 3, 1993, now abandoned, which is itself a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 08/085,662, filed June 29, 1993, now abandoned, which is itself a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 08/076,340, filed June 11, 1993, now abandoned, which is in turn a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 08/062,457, filed May 11, 1993, now abandoned.~~